



Why is **DATA** Important?!

What is the Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA)?

The PNA is a youth/student survey tool designed to measure a variety of attitudes, beliefs, and perceptions that have been shown to be related to alcohol, tobacco, and drug use, along with violent and problem behaviors. It also monitors the percent of students who have used or are currently using alcohol, tobacco, and/or other drugs; along with the percent who are participating or have participated in violent or other problem behaviors. This survey is the only widely available source of local level data within all of Wyoming on these subjects. The PNA is conducted in schools, in even-numbered years, by the University of Wyoming, Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center, and funded by the Wyoming Department of Health



How is PNA data used?

- ✓ Determine community prevention and funding needs!
 - **Example:** What priorities were chosen, in part or wholly because of data from the PNA (e.g.: In 2009, Community A chose to focus its prevention efforts on underage drinking because XX% of the 10th grade and YY% of the 12th grade students reported having used alcohol in the past 30 days.)
- ✓ Aid in the selection evidence-based prevention programs, practices and policies that will address the needs!
 - **Example:** List prevention programs, practices and policies that were chosen or at least considered because of the PNA data. (e.g.: The Most of Us media campaign was chosen to address the Social Norms disparity between how many students report drinking alcohol (XX % in 8th grade) and the percent of students who think that most other students in their school drink alcohol (YY% in 8th grade).)
- ✓ Evaluate prevention efforts!
 - **Example:** Discuss where this data is being used in evaluation or to fulfill data reporting requirements (e.g.: a community's Drug Free Communities Grant uses the PNA results of student disapproval of cigarette and marijuana use to fulfill its data reporting requirements under this grant.)
- ✓ Demonstrate success!
 - **Example:** Give one or more outcomes where PNA data indicates success. (e.g.: PNA data indicates that students who report being bullied while in the 8th grade has decreased from XX% in 2004 to YY% in 2008.)
- ✓ Apply for grants!
 - Core Prevention Grant – MHSASD (funded with Federal SAPT BG dollars and State General Funds)
 - **County Amount Received Annually: \$**



- Tobacco Free Wyoming Communities (TFWC) – MHSASD (funded with Federal CDC dollars and State Tobacco Settlement Funds)
 - **County Amount Received Annually: \$**
 - Youth Engagement Grants – MHSASD (funded with State General Funds)
 - **County Amount Received Annually: \$**
 - Other grants that have been applied for or received, where PNA data was part of the justification for funding
 - **County Amount(s) Received Annually: \$**
- ✓ **Demonstrate *why* prevention efforts should be funded!**
- Improves the health of children, families and communities;
 - Decreases the medical costs of substance use and violence;
 - Decreases the cost of harm caused by substance use and violence;
 - Increases the political will of State Legislators and members of Congress;
 - Assists the State in determining which local applications will be funded;
AND
 - Assist the State in demonstrating to Federal agencies that a continuation of funding is necessary and important.

Why should *your* school district participate in the PNA?

The Wyoming Department of Education's vision is to be recognized as one of the best education systems in America, based on overall student performance. Alcohol, tobacco, and drug use, and problem behaviors detract from improved student academic performance. Student success is also increased in a safe and healthy school environment. This data focuses prevention efforts to achieve this vision as well as target the funding to receive the best cost-benefit ratio possible.

